



USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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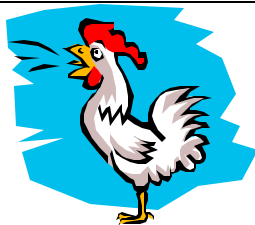
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Poultry Programs

Market News Branch



NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE

Trade sentiment was mostly about steady to steady. Demand was moderate at best, mostly slow to fair, with best interest into fast food and retail ads. Supplies were more than sufficient, longer for heavy weights in the West. In the parts structure, supplies of breast items were adequate to tight on bone-in breasts with numerous features increasing buying interest. The remaining items were at least adequate with slow to fair movement. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights covered the full range, but was mostly desirable to slightly heavier.

GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES The Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for next week's trading declined .25 cents to 57.25 cents based on full truck load lots of ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds. This compares to 60.25 cents last year on the 24th of February, 1999.

Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted prices on ice-packed parts for next week's trading.

DOCK PRICE (CENTS PER POUND)

BREASTS - B/S	137.00
BREASTS - WHOLE	68.00
THIGH MEAT - B/S	78.00
LEG QUARTERS	20.00
WINGS	54.50

THIS INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S POULTRY MARKET NEWS SERVICE.

CHICK PLACEMENT AND EGG SET TOTAL

15 STATES	PERCENT CHANGE		
WEEK ENDING 02/19/00	2000	1999	PREVIOUS YEAR
EGGS SET	178,321	181,671	-02
CHICKS PLACED	143,269	141,723	+01

Broiler Eggs Set In 15 Selected States Down 2 Percent

Commercial hatcheries in the 15-State weekly program set in incubators 178 million eggs during the week ending February 19, 2000. This was down 2 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 82 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

Broiler Chicks Placed Up 1 Percent

Broiler growers in the 15-State weekly program placed 143 million chicks for meat production during the week ending February 19, 2000. Placements were up 1 percent from the comparable week in 1999. Cumulative placements from January 2, 2000, through February 19, 2000, were 1.01 billion, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

BASED ON THE PRELIMINARY CHICK PLACEMENTS, THE NUMBER OF FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING DURING THE WEEK ENDING 1-Apr-00 IS ESTIMATED AT 152.9 MILLION HEAD. THIS COMPARES TO 153.4 MILLION HEAD THE PREVIOUS WEEK AND TO 147.7 MILLION HEAD THE SAME WEEK A YEAR AGO, WHEN THE SLAUGHTER WAS 149.9 MILLION HEAD AND THE 12-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE WAS 54.52 CENTS PER POUND.

WESTERN REGION BROILER/FRYERS The market tone was generally steady. Offerings readily available. Heavy weights in the longest position. Buying activity was light to moderate. Demand was light to moderate for whole body and moderate to fairly good for parts, best to cover features. Floor stocks in fair balance. The market tone was steady to barely steady on parts with the exception of bone-in breasts which were firm.

SOUTHERN Trade sentiment was mostly steady. Demand was fair to moderate, best where featured. Supplies were usually balanced to meet trade needs. In the parts structure, breast items were in good balance to closely cleared with retail ads strengthening movement. Wings were at least adequate with fair demand, and leg items were sufficient, yet leg quarters were more available with decreased interest. In production areas, live supplies were moderate. Weights were mostly desirable.

MIDWEST Trade sentiment on whole broiler/fryers was steady, instances fully steady. Additional offerings of whole fryers and wogs limited with most buyers satisfied with current commitments. Movement into all channels was mixed, slow to moderate. Best interest where features planned or in progress. Retail features noted in Michigan, Chicago and Ohio on split breasts at \$1.00, \$.99 and \$.99 respectively. In the St. Louis area, major chains featured boneless/skinless breasts at \$1.69, \$1.89 and \$1.59, and wings, drums and thighs at 79 cents. In Chicago, retail outlets featured boneless/skinless breasts at \$1.49, \$1.79 and \$2.00. Floor stocks balanced to ample, sizes desirable and trending heavier. Parts trading was slow to light overall with bone-in breasts the best call. Supplies were adequate too tight on bone-in breasts and at least adequate for the remainder of items. Trade sentiment was steady to firm on whole breasts, barely steady to weak on leg quarters and steady on the balance.

NORTHEAST Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was fair at best. Offerings continued to handle immediate needs with no difficulties. Retail and distributive movement was light to moderate. The market tone was steady. In the parts market, bone-in breasts were in the tightest position and being sold at premiums. The balance was at least adequate.

DELMARVA BROILER/FRYER MARKET Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was slow to fair at best. Seller offerings varied by both volume and size, but remained fully sufficient for current inquiry. Live supplies were at least moderate; weights varied in a full range of light to heavy. Processing schedules were moderately heavy. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 45 to 57 cents. Trade sentiment was about steady. In the parts complex, bone-in breasts and tenders were noted as in close balance. Other items were at least adequate with boneless skinless breasts generally noted as in the better balance.

*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA

	BRANDED U.S. GRADE A
RANGE	41-60
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	48.83
NO. OF BOXES	7,579
*6 of 8 plants reporting.	

SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	651	118.00-172.00	120-125	124.66
TENDERLOINS	92	115.00-160.00	115-120	129.70
BREAST - LINE RUN	120	60.00-69.00	60-62	60.60
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
LEGS	96	27.50-35.00	-	28.75
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	460	16.50-19.00	17-18	17.30
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,080	17.50-22.00	20-22	20.25
WINGS (WHOLE)	245	41.00-58.00	41-43	43.96
WINGS (CUT)	368	54.50-72.00	55-57	57.58
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT			

WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR FEB 23, 2000 — F.O.B. DOCK.

	RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
	34.25-36.50	35.15	34.29

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS Trucklot buying activity was moderate at best. Offerings of bone-in breasts continued tight and buyers in need of product were paying premiums. Boneless, skinless breasts were usually adequate. The balance of items was more than sufficient for current needs. Retail and distributive movement was light to moderate with some features attempting to improve buying interest. The market tone was firm on bone-in breasts and generally steady on the remainder of parts.

*PRICES PAID PER POUND, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BROILER/FRYER PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

	FEB 22, 2000		
ITEM	CURRENT TRADING*	NEG AVG**	WTD VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	130	128.14	470,760
TENDERLOINS	110-115	119.94	71,800
BREAST - WITH RIBS	57-58	63.92	179,720
BREAST - LINE RUN	58	60.82	106,440
LEGS	26-27	31.17	215,760
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	15-16	18.79	255,785
DRUMSTICKS	36-37	33.22	92,680
THIGHS	21-22	29.42	54,160
B/S THIGHS	70-71	70.07	52,460
WINGS (WHOLE)	40-41	47.57	194,800
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.05	48,800
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	33.36	39,405
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	59.28	48,320

	FEB 23, 2000		
ITEM	CURRENT TRADING*	NEG AVG**	WTD VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	130	131.51	294,600
TENDERLOINS	110-115	120.14	54,240
BREAST - WITH RIBS	58-59	64.92	185,640
BREAST - LINE RUN	58	62.85	162,520
LEGS	26-27	31.82	164,200
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	15-16	18.44	293,578
DRUMSTICKS	36-37	33.58	87,980
THIGHS	21-22	28.54	47,760
B/S THIGHS	70-71	72.21	36,960
WINGS (WHOLE)	40-41	48.91	178,892
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.07	47,880
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	30-35	34.23	35,760
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	55-60	59.94	51,480

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG).

* TODAY'S NEGOTIATED SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

** WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED		ACTUAL		AVG WTS		ACTUAL WTS	
	02/23	02/22	02/21	02/18	02/21	02/18	02/16	02/14
ALA	3,918	3,938	3,816	3,932	5.07	5.02	3,597	5.06
ARK	5,221	5,282	5,081	6,426	4.93	4.80	5,060	4.95
DELMARVA	2,410	2,497	1,795	2,340	5.19	5.17	2,385	5.30
KY-LA-TN	1,935	1,807	1,860	2,001	4.51	4.22	2,024	4.42
MISS	2,140	2,705	2,614	2,862	5.07	5.00	2,460	5.16
NC	2,627	2,617	2,187	3,284	5.73	6.01	2,533	5.88
TEXAS	1,941	2,253	2,237	1,708	4.88	4.58	2,216	4.67
TOTAL	20,192	21,099	19,590	22,553	5.04	4.96	20,275	5.07
MON-WED	61,406	(A)					61,753	(A)

(A) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 23-Feb 00 is estimated to be 30,209,000 down 0.71 percent from a week ago and up 2.5 percent from a year ago.

(Last week 30,425,000; last year 29,467,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY DELIVERED TO RETAILERS

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	76-80
ROASTERS 4# & UP	80-90
HENS UNDER 5#	-
HENS OVER 5#	79
DUCKS	125
RABBITS-WHOLE	299
RABBITS-CUT UP	309-316

SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRYDELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

FRESH FRYERS	DRY PACK	104-108
	ICE PACK	92-96
ROASTERS 4# & UP	DRY PACK	112
	ICE PACK	104-107
HENS OVER 5#	DRY PACK	95
	ICE PACK	91
DUCKS		149-166

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER

UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION FOR WEEK ENDING FEB -26-00

	CURRENT WEEK	PREVIOUS WEEK
	02/26/00 (1)	02/19/00
CLASS	THOUSAND HEAD	
BRO-FRY	159,182 (2)	155,286
LT HENS	1,965	2,090
HVY HENS	1,394	1,440
CHECK TOTAL	162,541	158,816

(1) ESTIMATED

(2) The estimated number of broiler-fryers available for slaughter the week ending 26-Feb-00 is 152.7 million head compared to 151.3 million head slaughtered the same week last year. The estimated U.S. slaughter this week is 161.1 million head or 8.4 million more than estimated available. For week of 04-Mar-00 the estimated available is 153.3 million head.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS

SELECTED STORAGE CENTERS

(INCLUDES GOVERNMENT STOCKS) (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEY	PROCESSED POULTRY
	LBS	LBS
AM 21-Feb-00	109,980	79,272
AM 1-Feb-00	94,257	72,756
CHG	15,723	6,516
PCT CHG	17	9

COLD STORAGE MOVEMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	PROCESSED TURKEYS			PROCESSED POULTRY		
	02/21/00	02/14/00	02/15/99	02/21/00	02/14/00	02/22/99
PACIFIC						
COAST	10,439	9,404	21,143	11,857	10,312	13,776
LOS						
ANGELES	74	77	347	3,222	3,410	7,132

HACKETTSTOWN POULTRY SALES

FOR 02/22/00

	LOW	HIGH	AVG	LOW	HIGH	AVG
HEAVY FOWL lb.	.351	.25	.67	HEAVY FOWL ea.	-1.00	-
LIGHT FOWL lb.	-.20			-LIGHT FOWL ea.	-	-
MIXED FOWL lb.	-	-		-MIXED FOWL ea.	-4.75	-
BANTAMS lb.	-	-		-BANTAMS ea.	2.753	.25
BROILERS lb.	-.90			-BROILERS ea.	-	-
ROASTERS lb.	-	-		-ROASTERS ea.	-	-
FRYERS lb.	-	-		-FRYERS ea.	-	-
CHICKS lb.	.05	.30		-CHICKS ea.	-	-
PULLETS lb.	-	-		-PULLETS ea.	-4.50	-
BUNNIES lb.	-	-		-BUNNIES ea.	-1.50	-
ROOSTERS lb.	.501	.55	1.29	ROOSTERS ea.	2.004	.00
GEESE lb.	-	-		-GEESE ea.	-6.00	-
TURKEYS lb.	.55	.75	.62	TURKEYS ea.	-	-
DUCKS lb.	.40	.95	.52	DUCKS ea.	-	-
RABBITS lb.	.201	.75	1.13	RABBITS ea.	.502	.00
PIGEONS lb.	-	-		-PIGEONS ea.	2.003	.50
GUINEA FOWL lb.	-	-		-GUINEA FOWL ea.	-	-
DUCKLINGS lb.	-	-		-DUCKLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA KEETS ea.	-	-		-CALL DUCKS ea.	10.00	10.50
SILKIES ea.	-3.00			-GOSLINGS ea.	-	-
GUINEA PIGS ea.	-	-				

TOTAL COOPS 96

CENTRAL MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY RTC HENS

READY-TO-COOK PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR DELIVERY TO FIRST RECEIVERS, U.S. GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5LBS. AND UP, FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21, 2000

		RANGE
HENS	ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	58-63
	VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	60-66

MAJOR WHOLESALE MARKETS-Mexico City

Cents per pound for the week ending February 18, 2000

	Whole	Legs	Necks, Backs	Livers/	
	Chickens	Breasts	W/Thighs	& Wings	Gizzards Hens
RAYON					
Low	73.84	145.74	87.45	24.29	5.83 53.44
High	75.79	155.46	92.30	34.01	7.29 53.44
Mostly	73.84	145.74	87.45	34.01	7.29 53.44
SAN JUAN					
Low	70.93	126.31	77.73	21.86	7.29 57.81
High	75.30	140.88	87.45	36.44	9.72 57.81
Mostly	71.90	136.03	77.73	34.01	7.29 57.81
NEW SAN JUAN					
Low	73.84	136.03	77.73	24.29	5.83 53.44
High	75.30	145.74	87.45	34.01	7.29 53.44
Mostly	73.84	145.74	87.45	29.15	7.29 53.44
BECERRA					
Low	70.44	126.31	72.87	26.72	7.29 57.81
High	72.87	145.74	87.45	36.44	10.69 57.81
Mostly	72.39	136.03	77.73	31.58	8.74 57.81

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